Namaste.

We complete 21 years of service to society. In November 2001, the first AIM for Seva Chatralayam was set up in Anaikatti, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu with 32 boys.

Pujya Swamiji always visualised our Chatralayams as a place where we would provide complete care and educational support to children from rural and tribal parts of India. In the process, he opened the path of Karma Yoga for all of us in the AIM for Seva family.

It suffices to say that over the last two decades, the devotion, dedication, hard work and sincerity of purpose shown by our Sadhu Sevaks (all Vedanta students of Pujya Swamiji) onground in fulfilling our Founder’s vision is no less than a mystic who is in silent contemplation of the Supreme in the lofty Himalayas!

We have captured that spirit in the form of stories under — Journey of a Sevak — in this special issue. You could also get to read some more stories on the same during the course of the next one year.

We have many more miles to go in our journey to educate rural India. In that sense, seva is ananta (infinite). More importantly, seva done in the right spirit brings ananda (bliss) both to the doer (whether as sevak, volunteer, supporter, employee, donor etc) as well as the beneficiary (student).

Wishing the AIM for Seva family a very Happy 2022 and many more years of service to a noble cause.

Warm regards,

Sheela Balaji
Chairperson and Managing Trustee
AIM for Seva
Namaste.

My first meeting with Pujya Swamiji was not in India but in a temple in New York. That was almost 16 years back. In his lecture, Pujya Swamiji shared his vision about AIM for Seva and how it was important to support the poorest of poor in India as they suffered the most.

My interactions with Pujya Swamiji continued. The flagship programme of AIM for Seva, Chatralayams (free student hostels) was different. While India had a tradition of Gurukulams, Chatralayams was a new concept. At that time, he asked me take some responsibility at AIM for Seva.

The initial days were challenging. But what I marvel is Pujya Swamiji’s enthusiasm. He must have been in his late seventies then but Pujya Swamiji was at the forefront in establishing many of our Chatralayams and even got involved in fund raising. At the end of many lectures, Pujya Swamiji used to seek Bhiksha from the audience for setting up the hostels. That was a big source of inspiration and motivation for people down the line.

We relied on local funding at that time. Every place that a hostel was set up; hundials were placed in the neighbouring shops and merchant establishments. This way people also got to know the good work that we were doing.

Pujya Swamiji was very good in identifying the right people for the right job. He felt that the Brahmacharis should not just restrict themselves to Vedanta teaching but also do seva for the community. There was clarity in his thought process from the beginning.

AIM for Seva is a pan Indian organisation and Pujya Swamiji was instrumental in giving its initial shape and structure. He dreamt big and talked about 100 Chatralayams and having a hostel in each district of India.

Our Brahmacharis, sadhu and Swamini coordinators who continue to man many of AIM for Seva’s projects across India are testimony to that erudite thinking.

In a way, we are all following his footsteps.

Sri. R. Kannan
Treasurer and Trustee
AIM for Seva
A young man in the audience quickly dived and picked up a few. His agility did not go unnoticed. Pujya Swamiji’s eyes quickly zeroed in on this new face. He asked Brahmachari Sukhrit Chaitanya (Swami Sadatmananda ji of Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikai) beside him, who was this young man?

“He is studying with us but resides in another Ashram,” replied Brahmachari Sukhrit Chaitanya ji. As Swamiji was leaving, he spoke to the young man, “Aa jao (come and meet me).”

“I had no such plans of meeting Pujya Swamiji at that time. But Swami Visharadananda Saraswati ji, (one of the senior disciples of Pujya Swamiji) egged me and told me to go and meet Pujya Swamiji,” recounts Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati ji.

Even today, Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati ji’s hands continue to remain full, not with chocolates but Chatralayams and schools! As coordinator of AIM for Seva’s 11 Chatralayams and two schools in Madhya Pradesh, there has never been a dull moment for him over the last 20 years.

But that was not the case when a novice seeker named Ishwar entered the hallowed precincts of the Swami Dayananda Ashram, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand in 1989. The son of Marathi speaking farmers, Ishwar

We would love to hear from you! Your feedback to this issue is extremely valuable. We request you to share your thoughts and suggestions. Please drop in your email to — comms.aimforseva@gmail.com
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As the New Year dawns, we are beginning a new series on AIM for Seva’s Sadhu and Swamini sevaks. Their dedication to fulfilling our Founder Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati’s vision for educational and cultural empowerment of rural and tribal children needs special mention.

Journey of Sevak— will continue to be showcased in the next few issues of Outreach. We have followed the alphabetical order in featuring of AIM for Seva’s Sadhu and Swamini sevaks.
Journey of a Sevak

wasn't fluent in Hindi, let alone English and Sanskrit. But he was determined to learn Sanskrit. “I wanted to learn Gita, Upanishads and Sastras,” says Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati ji. In fact, in his very first meeting with Pujya Swamiji, Ishwar laid out his goal clearly, “Swamiji, Mujihe Vidwan ban na hai (Swamiji, I want to become a scholar).”

Ishwar started with Sanskrit grammar classes. He started studying earnestly for Purva Madhyama and Uttar Madhyama studies (equivalent to Class 12). Ishwar also did one year of Shastri studies at Ved Maha Vidyalaya, Rishikesh. Then he started his higher studies with Swami Visharadananda Saraswati ji on Nyaya, Mimansa and Vedanta.

While at the Swami Dayananda Ashram, Ishwar got the opportunity to serve his Master’s Master, Swami Taranandagiri ji.

In 1991, Ishwar was given Brahmachari Diksha. The Sanyasa Diksha happened in 2002.

In 1995, Ishwar Chaitanya enrolled for the three and the half year Vedanta course at the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti.

Right after he completed his Vedanta course in 1998, Ishwar Chaitanya shifted to Madhya Pradesh and started taking Vedanta classes in the region.

The next leg of the journey (2001) was setting up of medical camps in and around Indore, Bhopal, Ujjain and Khandwa. In due course, the seva offerings were expanded. Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati ji started visiting Central Jail in Indore, Bhopal and Ujjain with the aim of helping the inmates tread the right path. Bhagavad Gita classes and Satsangs were started in the jail premises, every Tuesday and Fridays.

Now it was Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati’s turn to prod Pujya Swamiji to visit the prison (at Indore) and meet up with the inmates. At first, Pujya Swamiji wasn’t very enthused with that idea. “What are you doing, I don’t want to go there, I don’t know Hindi, I only know English, you take somebody else.”

In 1999, Pujya Swamiji with 25 disciples paid a visit to the Central Jail at Indore. He was accorded a warm and traditional welcome (with Purnakumbam) on this occasion.

In 2003, when Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati visited Madhya Pradesh, he suggested to the resident Swami to start Chatralayams in the region. The Founder’s words still resonate in Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati ji’s mind. “All of you are good teachers and can take good care of children. But I want some service to be done. We have to teach our own rural and tribal children, the value of our culture. For that, seva activities need to be done.”

The first Chatralayam in the state, Bapu-Buddh AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys was established in 2005 at Indore. The Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Sri. Balram Jakhar graced the occasion then.

After that, there was no looking back. Today, Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati is in-charge of all of AIM for Seva’s projects in Madhya Pradesh. Notably, many boys from Madhya Pradesh have successfully commenced their education to employment journey. “Lot of the students from Madhya Pradesh are working now, doing their own business, small business,” beams Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati ji.

He is happy with the progress shown by the MP boys. Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati ji then goes on to cite the example of Deepak Kevad. He lost his mother at the time of his birth and his father, a month later.

In his childhood, Deepak was looked after by grandmother who was in her sixties. They lived 150 kms away from Indore in a small village. Deepak’s grandmother came to know about the AIM for Seva hostel at Indore that looked after children free of cost. She brought the eight year old to Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati ji who was just managing one hostel in the region then.

“Swamiji, I have to go and work as a labourer in the fields every day. I don't have any property and Deepak doesn't go to school. His future seems to be in darkness,” said the granny to Swamiji. Three days later (after all the registration formalities were completed and complied with), Deepak joined the Indore Chatralayam with just Rs. 10 in his pocket. After a week, he gave the cash to Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati ji.

Like other students, Deepak too faced difficulties in adjusting to the hostel life initially. He used to sit and cry in one corner. When Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati ji asked him why he cried frequently, Deepak replied, “Every student’s parents or siblings come to the Chatralayam.

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Sometimes, it’s the mother, at other times, the father, brother or sister. No one ever comes to meet me.” Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati remembers telling Deepak that he was always there for him!

Those words of reassurance worked wonders on the young boy. Today, Deepak is working in a company in Baroda and last year, he donated his first salary (Rs. 12,000) to AIM for Seva. More importantly Deepak continues with the ‘sweets based’ legacy. Every time he visits the Indore Chatralayam, Deepak brings with him a bagful of fruits for Swamiji and sweets, ice cream and stationery for the other boys. “The students never forget us. They are always with us,” says Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati ji.

As for him, Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati ji feels a sense of fulfilment. “Our organisation is all about seva and I think the purpose of my life has been attained. It is not possible to be teaching only.”

Special Moments with Pujya Swamiji

From 2013 onwards, Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati’s health started deteriorating and Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati ji used to frequently go and meet up with him either at Manjakkudi or at the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti.

The visits at Manjakkudi were doubly special for Swami Aishvaryananda Saraswati ji as he got an opportunity to meet up with some of the students from Madhya Pradesh who were now enrolled at the Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu.

He recounts his last meeting with Pujya Swamiji in Anaikatti in 2015. “I don’t need to tell anything to you, you understand me, you understand my work, what I have done and I am 100% sure you will continue fulfilling our Sankalpa. I hope I can come back. Those were his last words to me.”

Journey of a Sevak

Being a Guru to Many Ekalavyas

Name:
Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji

Purvarsha Name:
Maruti Sadhashiv

Projects Handled:
Arsha Vidya Tirtha AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Jaipur, Rajasthan
&
Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Udaipur, Rajasthan

Born into a family of farmers who were ardent devotees of Lord Vitthal of Pandharpur, Maruti Sadhashiv displayed spiritual leanings from early on. “My mother devoted herself to Vitthal. My earliest memories of God are singing of abhangs (a form of devotional Marathi poetry sung in praise of Vitthal) and bhajans from a tender age,” recollects Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji.

The love for Vitthal continued through the teens. Along with his friend, Maruti Sadhashiv did a padayatra twice in his late teens (18 to 20 years) to Pandharpur.

During his third walking sojourn to Pandharpur, Maruti Sadhashiv was overcome by a deep desire to go Rishikesh to study the scriptures. The first halt towards that spiritual
Journey of a Sevak

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For food, we were dependent on “Initially, we could not even get a place to stay. It wasn’t the end, rather the beginning of a long journey ahead in seva and spiritual service. “Initially, we could not even get a place to stay. For food, we were dependent on Bhiksha.” For daily ablutions, it was the well. In between, Maruti Sadhashiv did seva at the Swami Dayananda Ashram, Rishikesh. For giving examinations, he would go to Ved Maha Vidyalaya.

But the hardships of the initial days did not deter the spirit of the young seeker. He studied Siddhant-Kaumudi (Sanskrit Grammar) at Sri Kailash Ashram, Rishikesh. “I did my studies up till Shastri and was now looking to do the courses required to become an Acarya.”

He got the best piece of advice from Pujya Swamiji - a sadhu did not require a formal degree. On his Brahmachari Diksha that happened on Mahashivratri day in 1991, he was named as Brahma Chaitanya.

Incidently, the Brahmachari Diksha in 1991 on Mahashivratri day is an important milestone in AIM for Seva’s calendar. On this day, three monks became Brahmacharis in Pujya Swamiji’s presence and all three continue to keep AIM’s flag flying high—Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati, Swami Vishnuswaroopnanda Saraswati and Swami Aishvarya Saraswati -- in other words, Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh!

Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji fondly recollects Pujya Swamiji’s 60th birthday celebrations on 15th August 1990 at the Swami Dayananda Ashram, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand. He also had the distinction of accompanying Pujya Swamiji in many of his lecture tours across India.

In 1990, Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji was part of the first batch that enrolled for the three year Vedanta course at the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti. However, he could not complete this programme as he had to take care of Swami Taranandagiri ji, who was ill at that time.

His dedication of service to Swami Taranandagiri ji won him praise from none other than the Master itself, a tribute Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji cherishes till date. “I remember Pujya Swamiji telling me that he could not personally attend to his Guru when he was seriously ill as he was busy spreading the message of Vedanta through continuous teaching tours. He was very happy that I served, nourished and extended all possible bedside care to Swami Taranandagiri ji during his stay at Kuppuswamy Hospital (G. Kuppuswamy Naidu Memorial Hospital), Coimbatore.” Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji was also happy that he had an opportunity to serve his Guru’s Guru when the moment arose. That he was a Hindi speaking sadhu also helped matters during that critical phase as Swami Taranandagiri ji wasn’t familiar with Tamil.

quest was Alandi, associated with Bhakti saint, Dnyaneshwar. Along with his friends, Maruti Sadhashiv decided to stay in an Ashram in Alandi with the objective of learning all about the Vaishnava Sampradaya, the tradition that he was born into.

Reminiscing those days, Swamiji says that they had to make the kutiya (grass hut) all by themselves and took a shower in the nearby rivulet. In the afternoons, the spiritual seekers would go and seek Bhiksha (alms) from the neighbouring villages. At night, there would be animated discussions on spirituality and scriptures under the star lit sky.

After a couple of years, on his friend Namdev Bhosle’s urging, the two decided to board a train to Rishikesh, a pre eminent centre of learning. That was in 1980. “I did not know the place, the location, history, geography etc,” recollects Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji.

Once the two friends reached Rishikesh, it wasn’t the end, rather the beginning of a long journey ahead in seva and spiritual service. “Initially, we could not even get a place to stay. For food, we were dependent on Bhiksha.” For
Subsequently, Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji did manage to complete the three year Vedanta course from 1994 to 1997 at Anaikatti.

Based on Pujya Swamiji’s advice, Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji shifted to Rajasthan in 1998. He established a Vedantic culture and teaching centre at Rajsamand. This was followed by Vedanta teaching tours in Jaipur and Udaipur.

In 2002, Swamiji wanted AIM for Seva to expand its operations in Rajasthan. With the help of well wishers and a local donor, the Arsha Vidya Tirtha AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys in Jaipur, Rajasthan came into being. It was inaugurated in 18th October 2008 by Pujya Swamiji himself.

In 2014, the Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Udaipur, Rajasthan, opened doors. Today, boys from 81 villages in the state come to reside and study at both Chatralayams.

Om Prakash started offering seva at the Udaipur Chatralayam by initially teaching tribal students residing in the hostel. He is currently the warden of this Chatralayam.

Both Gulab and Om Prakash Bheel come from the Bhil tribe. Fierce warriors to the core, the Bhils are known to have aided Rana Pratap Singh (1540 to 1597 CE), in his battles against the Mughal emperor, Akbar.

Swamiji gives his own take on the Bhils. “They are descendants of Ekalavya (from the Mahabharata—a young prince of the confederation of jungle tribes of India),” he says. Many of the students from the Chatralayams at Jaipur and Udaipur are from the Bhil tribe. And he is happy with the progress shown by his students—in doing seva and taking on responsibility when it matters.

At both the Udaipur and Jaipur Chatralayams, the boys continue to maintain the community’s link with the environment. It is evident from the day to day living, the vegetable garden, goshala and compost from the food waste; it’s all about living in harmony with nature at every step.

At the Jaipur Chatralayam, Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji is trying to incorporate the design of Hawa Mahal in the second floor. By creating a large set of windows along the railings of the second floor, the possibility of natural ventilation during heat waves is taken care of and dependency on electrical appliances is also reduced.

Pujya Swamiji’s last words still continue to inspire Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji. “I think it was the year 2011. We were all gathered at the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti. Pujya Swamiji said that I can barely walk, my limbs are giving away. I cannot hear properly. But all of this will not stop me from spreading the message of Vedanta and doing seva. As long as we are alive, we should continue to do what we can do. There is no retirement age for seva!”

**Taking the Seva Lineage Forward**

That charity begins at home is evident with some of the former students of AIM for Seva Chatralayams i.e. Jaipur and Udaipur. Gulab Damor, an alumnus of the Jaipur Chatralayam, is now in-charge of the hostel. From overseeing the daily morning prayer and schedule of the students to overseeing repairs and maintenance, Gulab plays a crucial role in the day to day affairs of the Jaipur Chatralayam.

Om Prakash Bheel joined the Arsha Vidya Tirtha AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Jaipur, Rajasthan, in 2006. It is from here that Om Prakash completed his bachelor’s degree in education along with M.Com from Rajasthan University.

Recently, Om Prakash appeared for admission to PhD. from Janardan Rai University Udaipur, Rajasthan. He managed to ace the written test as well as interview in his second attempt and managed to get admission for the PhD. programme.
What Goes Around, Comes Around

Name: Swami Chitprakashananda Saraswati ji
Purvashrama Name: Balram

Projects Handled: AIM for Seva’s Chatralayams in Maharashtra (Shivane Maval, Chikhali and Pangri Rajgurunagar (all in Pune) and Amboli)
AIM for Seva Chatralayams in Karnataka (Belgaum, Kalabhalli, Kanasageri and Tondikatti)

In some ways, Swami Chitprakashananda Saraswati ji’s association with AIM for Seva has come full circle.

As a young boy, Balram used to trek 5 kms up each way to attend school from Class 8 to 10 in a village in Maharashtra. Today, as the coordinator of some of AIM for Seva’s Chatralayams in Maharashtra and Karnataka, it has been very fulfilling for Swami Chitprakashananda Saraswati ji to see that the boys and girls from rural and tribal lands don’t have to trek such long distances on a daily basis. “Children should walk a maximum distance of a kilometre to go to the nearest school. I remember as a teenager, it was difficult for me to do long distance walking every day. The most important lesson that I learnt was that schools should be in close vicinity to the place of residence. Walking long distances everyday saps one of energy and there is not much stamina left in the evenings then to complete the daily homework. I am happy and proud to be in-charge of some of our Chatralayam projects. Our hostels provide all facilities that a child from rural India requires to complete his or her education,” he says.

But the daily trek to school during the teen years wasn’t without its benefits. During many of those long sojourns, Balram used to meet up with wandering monks and was attracted with their search for the truth. It inspired him so much that he decided to run away from home one fine morning.

After a few days of wandering, the young Balram landed up in an Ashram in Alandi near Pune. Alandi town is popular as a place of pilgrimage and is the resting place of the 13th century Marathi bhakti saint, Dnyaneshwar. For one year (1981-1982), he lived with other sadhus and learnt the basics in Sadhana. A senior teacher in the institute instilled in him a deep desire for spiritual enlightenment. “In his lectures, he used to talk about the Himalayan monks and their Sadhana. My heart was filled with a desire for enlightenment.”

Rishikesh, a small town in Uttarakhand on the banks of the Ganges is an important spiritual centre in the country. Balram and his friend decided to move to Rishikesh. This was Balram’s second escapade. “The thought of going to Rishikesh overpowered me so much that my friend and I ran away from the Ashram one night without even informing my teacher!”

Journey of a Sevak
Journey of a Sevak

Un fortunately, the train that the duo took was destined to Varanasi, another important pilgrim centre in India. Parshuram and Balram decided to spend a few days in this holy city.

This was in 1982. Both Balram and Parshuram visited some temples in the city. A few days later, they left for Delhi. From Delhi, they went to Mathura, then Vrindavan and finally, Rishikesh.

When he first stepped into the soil of Rishikesh, Balram wasn’t too impressed. “It was big and crowded. The place did not have the spiritual charm --like dotted with snow line mountain peaks-- that was described by my teacher in Alandi,” says Swami Chitprakashananda Saraswati ji.

Nevertheless, the beautiful Ashrams that stood by the Ganges became a big pull factor for both the friends to stay put in Rishikesh and continue with their spiritual quest.

Balram and Parshuram stayed at Brahma Prakash Kutir. From here, they went to Sri Kailash Ashram everyday (a pre eminent centre for learning). For Bhiksha, they used to go to Kali Kamliwala Ashram. This was in 1983.

A few months later, Balram and Parshuram got an opportunity to do seva at the Gangadeshwar temple at the Swami Dayananda Ashram in Rishikesh.

Simultaneously, Balram enrolled for a course in Sanskrit at the Ved Vidyalaya. Once when Pujya Swamiji enquired from Balram what was his purpose in life. In all innocence, Balram replied, “I want to become a sadhu.” To which Pujya Swamiji replied that a sadhu need not get a formal degree and advised Balram to study the Vedanta texts in private mode at Sri Kailash Ashram.

In 1984, at his Upanayana Samaskara, Balram became SuPrakash Chaitanya. As his interest and learning in Vedanta progressed, SuPrakash Chaitanya made an effort to learn English as many of Pujya’s Swamiji’s lectures were in that language.

In those years, Swami Paramarthananda ji (one of Pujya Swamiji’s earliest students) was a regular visitor to the Swami Dayananda Ashram at Rishikesh. SuPrakash Chaitanya made it a point to attend all his lectures.

Deeply impressed with what Vedanta had to offer, SuPrakash Chaitanya and his friend decided to go to Chennai to learn more on this ancient wisdom from Swami Paramarthananda ji. This was in the year 1986. “Swamiji (Paramartha ji) made all arrangements for us for a comfortable stay,” recalls Swami Chitprakashananda Saraswati ji warmly. For the next seven years, the studies centred around Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads and the Brahma Sutras.

On 31st October 2000, Swami Chitprakashananda Saraswati ji was in New Delhi at Siri Fort Auditorium. It was at this venue where Pujya Swamiji along with the former president, Sri. Venkataraman launched the All India Movement for Seva (AIM for Seva).

From there on, Swami Chitprakashananda Saraswati ji established a Vedanta centre in Belgaum. “I built a small Ashram. A few students from the neighbouring villages joined this centre. They went to the nearest school and learnt about Indian culture.” In addition, Swami Chitprakashananda Saraswati ji also began Vedanta classes and the first batch comprised eight students.

At a meeting at the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti, Coimbatore in 2005, Pujya Swamiji encouraged Swami Chitprakashananda Saraswati ji to continue the good work under the AIM for Seva banner.

There was no looking back after that. Five years later, Swami Chitprakashananda Saraswati ji gave a proposal for building of a lecture hall and intake of more students at Belgaum. The following year, the boys Chattralayam at Belgaum was converted to a girls Chattralayam with the first batch comprising 25 students from Meghalaya.

At a meeting in 2011, Swamini Swatmanistananda Saraswati ji proposed the name of Swami Chitprakashananda Saraswati ji to manage other AIM for Seva hostels in the region.

By 2015, Swami Chitprakashananda Saraswati ji was managing AIM for Seva hostels in Shivane Maval, Pune and Chikhali in Maharashtra.

The 100th Home celebration at the Music Academy Chennai on 1st February 2014 is something that Swami Chitprakashananda ji holds close to his heart. “It was very inspiring and motivated us all to continue with the extra mile effort.”
At his last meeting with the Founder of AIM for Seva, Pujya Swamiji was bedridden and ailing at the Swami Dayananda Ashram, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand. “Pujya Swamiji could not speak much at that time. He was communicating through his eyes. I remember walking up to him and telling him, I will dedicate myself to AIM for Seva and I will continue to work for this organisation.”

**Educational Legacy**

Swami Chitprakashananda Saraswati ji is now busy with the next big educational projects - two residential schools, one each in Karnataka and Maharashtra. These institutions will have a hostel for boys as well as one for girls. The upcoming school in Karnataka will be located in Budhni Tondikatti village, Belgaum district while the one in Maharashtra will be located in Rajgurunagar in Pangari village, Pune district.

Swamiji is also looking to upgrade the Chatralayams that are under him. “If we have to maintain our standards, then it becomes imperative that we continue to offer more facilities at our existing hostels. Only then students would be attracted to our network,” he says.

Swamiji is also hopeful that the legacy of seva will continue in all the educational projects under his supervision. “Seva work requires lot of dedication and hard work. I hope we continue to have talented sevaks amongst us.”

In the end he says, the whole journey has been satisfying for him. “I have not given up my Vedanta classes. Then I have to manage the Chatralayams and now the upcoming schools.” He is very happy to see many former students completing their higher studies and now supporting their parents and families back home.

**Journey of a Sevak**

**Stories, Seva and Communism**

Name: Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji

Purvashrama Name: N. Ponni

Projects Handled: Atmalaya Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls, Udumalpet, Tamil Nadu & Swami Dayananda Rotary Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kadalur, Tamil Nadu

Ponni Natesan did her elementary schooling in her village school. Her father was the headmaster in that school while her mother was a teacher in the same institution.

When she reached middle school, Ponni Natesan had to walk a good 5 miles every day, each way to Papparapatti. She left home at 6:40 am every morning and reached school at 9 am. Ponni Natesan used to be back home 12 hours later, 6 pm every day.

Those long walks were not without its advantages. “My school was very particular about timings. If we came in late, we had to do three rounds in the ground. Already, I used to cover a long distance by foot everyday and I wasn’t keen for another three rounds,” says Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji with a laugh.

It didn’t end there. The daily marathon meant hunger pangs set in as soon as Ponni Natesan entered the school premises. “I would often wonder, why this urge to open the tiffin box in the first period itself. Why is everyone else not feeling hungry?”
Journey of a Sevak

While going to school every day, Ponni Natesan had to criss cross paddy fields, dense woods and fruit orchards. Those picturesque trails left a lasting impression on her mind.

Today, the Atmalaya Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls, Udumalpet, Tamil Nadu, is a scene straight out of those childhood hikes. The campus is dotted with flowers, fruits and blooming plants and Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji is happy that the girls have a secure and safe residence and don’t have to walk long distance to school on a daily basis.

Similarly, the vast campus of the Swami Dayananda Rotary Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kadalur, Tamil Nadu, where Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji is the Director provides K-12 education to children from the fishing hamlet.

Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati’s father was her first inspiration as he instilled a love for reading and learning in both his daughters. Swamini ji recounts the other inspiration in her life, Ishwar sir, her teacher from Class 3. “He was a wonderful story teller and used to regale us with tales from history and freedom fighters. His voice still clearly rings in my head.”

Those stories instilled a deep sense of patriotism in Swamini ji early on. In fact, after she received Sanyasa Diksha, Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji made it a point to go and meet her first Guru and take his blessings for the journey ahead.

As a teenager, Ponni Natesan was a voracious reader devouring works of authors like Kalki, Sandilyan, Mu Va (Mu. Varadarajan), Na. Parthasarathy and Cho Ramaswamy. “Their writings coupled with Sivaji Ganesan’s movies helped shape my thought process in the teenage years,” recounts Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji.

Revolutionaries held a special place in her heart. The portrait of Shaheed Bhagat Singh found a place in her home.

Ponni Natesan was exposed to other elements as a young adult as well. In the 1960s and 1970s, Dharmapuri district was a hotbed of communism. “One of my relatives was an avowed communist. I too imbibed some of those ideals like equality for all.”

But her brush with communism was short lived. The deep sense of patriotism instilled in early childhood coupled with a spiritual background (Ponni Natesan’s paternal grandfather was an important pujari in the local village and well respected in the community), made her go from left to what was right. It shaped the young mind. She became independent. The motto that continues to drive her till date is “if you are good and do good, then you need not fear others.”

After college, Ponni Natesan worked as a quality controller engineer (1985) in a company in Hosur for six months. One day fine, she decided to call it quits. “The inner urging was very strong. I wanted to do seva.” Ponni Natesan went back home. During this time, a friend had joined a prominent monastic order. “I went to meet her at the Ashram without informing my parents. After a fortnight, I too decided to become a Sanyasin,” recollects Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji.

It was a tough choice with her parents opposing it tooth and nail at first. Gradually, they got around to accepting her in the new avatar. The next fifteen years were spent in this monastery where Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji honed her skills as a capable administrator and organiser.

In 2001, Swami Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji shifted to Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti, to do the three and half year Vedanta course. She was part of the third batch. During this time, she got an opportunity to see Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati ji from close quarters. “What really moved me was the care and compassion shown by Pujya Swamiji towards all irrespective of differences in class, caste and race.”

Pujya Swamiji wanted Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati to do educational seva in Tamil Nadu. But Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji was keener on Vedanta teaching in 2005.
Journey of a Sevak

In 2009, Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji happened to attend Pujya Swamiji’s lecture in Bangalore. Here Pujya Swamiji made a strong pitch for AIM for Seva once again. “I can’t walk properly, I can’t see properly. But I am going all over the world to spread and protect Sanatana Dharma. But my Sanyasi disciples are not understanding this,” lamented Pujya Swamiji.

Though Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji was one among the many faces in audience, she felt this was a direct message to her. After the lecture, she followed Pujya Swamiji quietly to his room. There she gave him her full assurance of seva.

In reply, Pujya Swamiji in his inimitable style gave the Bhoomi Puja date for the Udumalpet Chatralayam (2010). “Whether it is ready or not, I will come and meet you then.”

Now Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji was in a fix. The land wasn’t identified yet. Slowly, things fell into place. The Bhoomi Puja for the Atmalaya Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls happened in 2010. This Chatralayam opened doors in 2012.

Girls aged between 10 and 21 years from 37 neighbouring villages are currently living and studying in this hostel. Roles, responsibilities and duties are clearly laid out like a welcoming party (to warmly usher in the guests), a store management group while another team is in-charge of the goshala and so on.

All through, Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji has focused on the emotional maturity of the girls. “They come from very poor backgrounds and are deeply sensitive. So one must take care of the emotions of the child and not the child per se. Only then, we will be able to see growth and emotional maturity in them.”

The new vocational training centre has been designed to cater to entrepreneurship. “While many of the current students have done well academically, the majority of them are first generation learners. A pure focus on academics may not get the desired results. It has to be complemented by skill based training.”

Already, some of that training is evident on the ground. The Udumalpet Chatralayam is now completely run by the girls with Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji giving overall direction.

In the end, Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji is happy and satisfied. “For me, AIM for Seva is an embodiment of Pujhya Swamiji and this is my Guru seva to him.”

The 'Seasoned' Sadhu Sevak

Name: Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji
Purvashrama Name: Hemant Pahwa

Projects Handled: AIM for Seva Chatralayams in Uttarakhand

3 Tailoring Centres and One Non-Formal Education Centre, Uttarakhand

Seva and spiritual quest is second nature to Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji. Born into a deeply religious Punjabi family, Hemant Pahwa’s first inspiration was his mother. As a child, he used to see how his mother used to diligently make prasadam, do abhishekham (ritual bathing of the Lord), do the aarti and put Krishna to rest at night. “I felt the presence of God in my house in Pitam Pura (New Delhi) itself,” recollects Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji.

He was part of a joint family and that instilled the values of sharing and caring from early on in life. While in school and then college, Hemant Pahwa slowly started assisting his mother in her daily puja. At first, he was assigned the duty of cleaning the puja mandap and silver utensils. “As I gained more confidence, my mother gave me the opportunity to do abhishekam (ritual bathing) for Lord Krishna.”

While he was in fifth standard, Hemant followed his mother’s footsteps and started fasting on Tuesdays. “My mother used to fast three times a week. You could say that I too became fond of fasting!”

It did not stop here. Hemant then went on to stir the ladle for the Lord. “When I was making halwa, my mother used to tell me, you chant Krishna’s name, the halwa will come out very nicely. And it happened. Nobody liked eating
Journey of a Sevak

**halwa** in my house. But when I used to make it, because of **prasadam**, they used to like it.”

Hemant completed his bachelor’s in economics from Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, Delhi University, in 1976. This was followed by masters in economics at DAV College, Dehradun. He then started preparing for various entrance examinations. In 1979, he got absorbed into Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) post the written examination and interviews. In 1984, Hemant earned a promotion and shifted to Meerut.

The following year, he got a transfer to the central office at Connaught Place, New Delhi. By now, he had a well paying job and was well settled. The thought of self actualisation in the form of service to society began to take shape in his mind.

Mangolpuri, (an underdeveloped place then) is located in north west Delhi. Every Sunday, Hemant visited this place and started teaching the students by giving tuitions and lessons in moral education, health and hygiene and general knowledge. “It was an ideal place to begin my contribution. Of course, this place has grown since the 1980s with the government allotting housing plots. But some parts of the area continue to remain backward,” says Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji.

In addition to giving classes and tuitions to students, Hemant also sponsored their books and stationery. In the pre G Pay and Pay TM days, Hemant just banked on his goodwill and left his visiting cards with the local people and gave standing instructions to the local chemist at Mangolpuri that anyone who showed his card be given the requisite medicines. The dues would be settled every Sunday.

Slowly, he realised the power of seva and bliss one attained when serving others selflessly. “A thought struck my mind, why not make this full time. Why do I have to wait for six long days. Why not do it every day?”

As he voiced his ideas to his senior in the bank, he got some practical advice. “My boss told me to hang on and put in the requisite years of service as I would be eligible for all benefits then.”

In January 2001, after 22 years of service, he opted for the VRS (voluntary retirement scheme) offered by the bank.

Though Hemant had officially retired, he still wanted to work. The acronym became more powerful now, service to society. As Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati ji later remarked good humouredly, “Mind you, he is not a retired bank manager, but he is a voluntarily retired bank manager. So you can expect a lot out of him!”

Krishna was his **Ishta Devo** (favourite deity). With the VRS proceeds, Hemant booked a place for himself at Vrindavan, close to his **Banke Bihari**. He resides there currently.

Hemant came to know about Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati ji through their family neighbour, Ms Kalaiavani. “She was a south Indian and an ardent devotee of Pujya Swamiji and used to sing **bhajans** in his presence.”

Based on her advice, one fine morning in June 2001, Hemant arrived at the New Delhi railway station to receive Swami Sakshatkrtananda Saraswati ji, a senior disciple and monk of the Arsha Vidya order and Sri. Kumar Iyer, a devotee of the Founder.

The luncheon at Sri. Kumar Iyer’s house that day was a very long drawn affair. “There was a huge spread and now I get the feeling that they were observing me all along during the course of the lunch and conversation, whether I will be able to fit in etc,” says Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji with a laugh. That evening, Hemant got a message that he could pack his bags and head to the Ashram at Rishikesh the following Monday.

“From the beginning, I sensed a lot of positive vibrations. The Ashram was situated right on the banks of the Ganges. Seeing the **brahmacharis** in white robes, the early morning **aarti** on the river banks and the **Satvik** food, all took me back to my childhood days,” remembers Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji fondly.

There was no stopping Hemant after that. His bank experience came in handy for AIM for
Journey of a Sevak

Seva in its early years. Within six months, he was given the cheque signing authority, power of attorney and he became in-charge of the north Indian operations.

As he got fully involved in AIM for Seva affairs from the beginning, Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji could not do the three year Vedanta course.

Hemant first became Hamsa Chaitanya and then Swami Hamsananda Saraswati. Recounting that moment, Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji says, “Pujya Swamiji told me that I gave you Hamsa, as your Purvashrama name started from H—Hemant. Now Hamsa—H. Everything was taken into consideration during the mantra diksha process.

“I am a staunch Vaishnavite and pucca devotee of Lord Krishna, so Pujya Swamiji did my initiation accordingly.”

Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji was involved in many of AIM for Seva’s projects since their inception. “Whenever AIM for Seva wanted to start a new hostel, I used to go to the proposed venue, be involved in the land buying process and help settle the associated formalities etc.”

He was at the forefront in setting up of AIM for Seva’s first healthcare facility, AIM for Seva Jawahar Dharmarth Chikitsalaya at Nalanda, Bihar in 2006.

In the early 2000s, the Swami Dayananda Ashram at Rishikesh functioned as the zonal office for AIM for Seva, with the fund receipt and disbursal happening out of here under Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji’s supervision.

After AIM for Seva got a central office in Chennai, Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji went to doing what he always wanted to do, working tirelessly in the field. As project coordinator of our hostels in Uttarakhand and three sewing centres in the same region and one non formal education centre for children, it has been a fulfilling experience.

The first hostel for boys was set up in Srinagar in Uttarakhand in 2003 (Rani Girija Devi AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Srinagar, Uttarakhand). The Chatralayam operated out of a rented facility. Swamiji and his team trekked to the remote villages in the region, met up with the village head, Gram Pradhan and told them of the good and noble work that AIM for Seva was doing.

“We then talked to the parents and convinced them to send their boys to the Chatralayam persuading them that we would treat them as our own and take care of all their requirements, food, clothing, education etc.”

In the return journey, Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji had a few boys and their baggage in his car. As word of mouth spread about AIM for Seva’s flagship programme, there was a queue for admissions! Within a year, the boys at Srinagar moved to a new building and expansion and renovation of existing facilities is an ongoing feature in the region. Uttarakhand now has two hostels for boys and one for girls.

Like the Himalayan hills, AIM for Seva’s journey in Uttarakhand was up and down. Many boys from rural India were used to unbridled freedom. The Chatralayam environment and daily discipline could become stifling at times. Once when Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji was away at Rishikesh, a group of boys went hiding into Pauri. On return, it was a nightmare for Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji. He went searching for them, lodging a police complaint at the nearest station etc. The boys were finally found at Pauri and when they came back to the hostel after four long days, they were fully famished. “That day, we had only rice and dal, but when I saw them eating, it felt as if they hadn’t eaten for ages! They were then counselled.”

Lot of the students from the hostels managed by Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji are now earning members of the family and continue to remain connected to Swamiji via Facebook. “I get loads of wishes from them on my birthday. If I am not active digitally for some time, then I start getting calls from them asking, ‘Swamiji where are you, what happened etc?’”

Even after becoming a sadhu, Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji continued to maintain ties with his mother. Their relationship was a leaf out of Adi Shankara’s life. “When my mother was 90 years old and was not well, I went to visit her. She took a promise that whenever I need you, I will call you, you have to come. She used to give me the example of Adi Shankara.”

But Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji is quick to add that even though he is not even a pinpoint of Adi Shankara, but he continued to be in touch with his mother as long as she was alive. “I am always there for you. I will arrange my tour as per your requirement. So it won’t affect my seva work also, at the same time, I will come and see you.” This was Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji’s promise to his mother.

As a sevak, Swami Hamsananda Saraswati ji dons many hats. And then the blessings and complete satisfaction in doing what he does best.
New Opportunities on the Horizon

Here we share a glimpse of Daya Products, an initiative by students from the Atmalaya Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls, Udumalpet, Tamil Nadu.

“The climax is yet to happen,” said one.
“Don’t let it over roast,” added her friend.
“This is our first venture. It would be ideal if we face east and start the whole process,” chipped in another.

These scenes were not from a movie but from the vocational training centre at the Atmalaya Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls, Udumalpet, Tamil Nadu.

For the last couple of months, the girls at the Udumalpet Chatralayam have been busy in a new project. Named Daya Products and under the supervision of Ms. P. Nithya Gowri, a human resources (HR) consultant for schools and colleges in Udumalpet, the hostelers have been involved in making of idli podi, basket weaving and making of organic coconut hair oil.

Ms. Nithya Gowri has been a long time supporter to the Atmalaya Chatralayam. In the past, she has been involved in fund raising projects for the girls residing and studying at the Atmalaya Chatralayam. For this, she roped in school children from Udumalpet on a hundial project.

In the current programme, from buying of raw materials to learning the process of making the podi and weaving of baskets and making of hair oil to researching on the designs for the logos, pricing of products and maintaining of a day book, it has been an in-house effort all along.

Even more exciting is the fact that the hostel coordinator, Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji has thrown her full weight behind the girls for this project. For starters, the money received as Dakshina by Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji during Pujya Swamiji’s Aradhana Day was utilised as seed capital for this programme.

Twenty seven girls who are participating in the current project are divided into three groups of three each; excel group, medium group and learner’s group. Each of the team has a name as well, inspired by a legendary freedom fighter. The expert group helps the middle group while the learner group as the name suggests, is just starting to do things.

Team Daya Products

Trainers
Ms. P. Banumathi - Idli podi trainer
Ms. N. Nithya Lakshmi - Massage oil and Nalangu podi trainer
Ms. Swathi Palanivel - Basket trainer
Ms. Gowri - Hair oil and soap trainer
The vocational training centre in the Chatralayam has been set up to enable the girls to realise their full potential. Next in line are millet cookies from the stable of Daya Products. “We will be getting the oven this month. Once the machine is installed, biscuit making activity will commence,” says Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji.

On her part, Ms. Nithya Gowri is enthused by the enthusiasm shown by the girls for this project. “Apart from studies, it’s important for the girls to develop critical life skills. This project will provide an exposure to them on how to work as a team, marketing, building of a customer base and being proactive to feedback. On the operations side, they will learn the importance of maintaining costs and consistency of the product,” says Ms. Nithya Gowri. Office members from the central office have already given thumbs up to the idli podi!

In the next stage, the volunteer team at Udumalpet is looking to partner with the hundial project schools. “We thought this time instead of the students collecting money for the Udumalpet girl hostelers, why not they purchase the products made by their friends,” says Ms. Nithya Gowri. Departmental store sales and online sales are next on the horizon.

Through the project, the girls at Udumalpet would be able to skill themselves and can be self-employed.

At the Udumalpet Chatralayam, alongside an emphasis on school work and studies, the girls are encouraged to pursue extracurricular activities as well. This includes outdoor activities such as yoga and silambattam to literary pursuits such as learning of the scriptures.

In addition, the girls are assigned to a group that is entrusted to carry out a specific task in the Chatralayam (such as taking care of the garden, keeping the dormitories in order, helping in the kitchen, taking care of the storeroom etc). Each group has an ‘in charge,’ which has to delegate, guide and assist the girls in their tasks and ensures that the work is done in a neat and systematic manner. There is an ‘overall in charge’ as well, who has to ensure that the different groups are working harmoniously—by themselves and with each other.

The rotational system means that each girl is put through several different kinds of tasks, and is made to understand how to best work with older and younger girls to get the work done. It sharpens their skills in logistics, mental maths, inter personal communication and timelines. An offshoot of this training is their increased self-esteem and confidence, and a feeling of empowerment.

At the Atmalaya Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls, Udumalpet, Tamil Nadu, the students are testimony that handing over the reins of responsibility to the doers is the best way to create a generation of empowered citizens.

The girls are groomed to see themselves as doers, to set the bar higher for themselves and their sisters. It is through entrenching such a way of thinking that the path is paved for long lasting societal change.

Volunteers

Ms. P. Nithya Gowri — Organiser of the programme

Ms. Nandhini Arun Karthik — President, Inner Wheel Club of Udumalpet (2021-2022) has arranged for the hair oil training programme. To this end, she has contributed a sum of Rs. 15,000 for the project

Ms. Krithika Jayabal — Helping in design and marketing

Ms. Vaishnavi Priya Naren Kumar — Helping in finance management

Be Associated with the Movement to Educate Rural India in Perpetuity

We seek your support in our endeavour. If the above story is inspiring, do join our movement. You can contribute from as low as Rs. 100 to any amount of your choice on a regular basis.

To Donate
https://aimforseva.in/donations/continuous-seva-support
An AIM for Seva project, the NGO is looking to set up 100 centres in the first phase. Already, 65 centres are up and running.

HISTORY

Sandhya Gurukulam was visualised and conceptualised as an evening programme by the Founder of AIM for Seva, Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati.

This programme is for children from rural and tribal India and those living in mountainous regions and forested areas. The parents of such children have to grapple with daily livelihood issues. With the result, the young ones are often left to fend for themselves. They end up watching television incessantly, get addicted to smart phones or simply wander aimlessly in the fields.

PROGRAMME

This is a very unique project that has been conceived to shape young minds especially those living in rural and tribal lands.

Sandhya Gurukulam centres are usually located in public spaces like Chatralayams, community halls or temple mandapams. Students from the neighbouring areas and villages assemble for a fun filled and learning based evenings.

The programme is structured as providing tuition support, value-based educational classes, sports, yoga and games. This value-based educational programme aims at overall development of the child. It is committed to a child’s—

- **Education**: Academic improvement
- **Value-Based Education**: Imbibing of cultural and learning values, early on in life
- **Physical Fitness**: Yoga
- **Culture Validation**

OPERATION

A trained sevak or Sandhya Gurukulam teacher/instructor takes on the responsibility for the overall development of the children. This includes:

- **Evening Tuitions**: To improve the students’ overall academic performance. A specific focus is on getting the children to complete their daily homework.
- **Outdoor Games and Yoga**: For improvement of physical fitness. In addition, other value oriented puzzles and games are also organised on a frequent basis.

Many villagers across India can’t afford to send their children to regular school. So, Sandhya Gurukulams try and fill in the educational gaps by adding to the educational, emotional and cultural orientation of the child.

- **A Value-Based Educational Curriculum**

  **Focusing on the Following:**
  - Bhajans and slokams
  - Meditation
  - Stories Retold: From the epics with the end goal of students imbibing the moral values from the stories in their daily living.
**Andhra Pradesh**

Fifteen Sandhya Gurukulam centres are currently operating in Andhra Pradesh.

**Total Number of Students Benefitted Till Date: 390**

**Future Plans for Sandhya Gurukulams in Andhra Pradesh**

The coordinator of this initiative says that the pilot has been well received by the beneficiaries, their parents and other local stakeholders.

Moving on, the plan is to have Sandhya Gurukulam centres in and around all our Chatralayam locations in Andhra Pradesh.

AIM for Seva currently has 13 Chatralayams in the region with 10 for boys and the remaining for girls.

Eventually, the plan is to have a Sandhya Gurukulam programme in each of the Chatralayams and in its vicinity in the form of satellite centres.

Right now, this project is being manned by the coordinator and respective wardens. In future, local committee in each of the area (with participation of all concerned stakeholders) is expected to be formed to oversee the smooth functioning of this programme on a day to day basis.
**Tamil Nadu**
Fifty *Sandhya Gurukulam* centres are currently operational across Cuddalore and Perambalur districts.

**Total Number of Students Benefitted Till Date: 1163**

**VILLAGES COVERED IN CUDDALORE REGION**
- Adari
- Alaththur
- Ezhuthur
- Kalathur
- Kallur
- Kanchirangulam
- Kandamaththaan
- Keezhakalpoondi
- Keezhorathur
- Kolavaai
- Korakkavadi
- Lakkur
- Mangulam
- Mealakalpoondi
- Naangoor
- Pasar
- Pattakurichi
- Perangiyam
- Poyanapadi
- Ramanaththam
- Thachur
- Thozhuthoor
- Vadagaraampoondi
- Vallimadhuram
- Vinayakananthal

**VILLAGES COVERED IN PERAMBALUR DISTRICT**
- Agaramseegur
- Athiur (east)
- Athiur (west)
- Eraiyur
- Kaiperambalur
- Kazhanivasal
- Keelakudikaadu
- Keelaperambalur
- Keeranur
- Kilumathur
- Mangakalamedu
- Mettu Kaalingarayanallur
- Murukkangudi
- Namaiyur
- Ogalur
- Palla Kaalingarayanallur
- Pennakonam
- Peraiyur
- Perumathur
- Ranjankudi
- Thirumaandurai
- Thiruvalanthurai
- Vadakkalur
- Vasisterpuram
- Vayalur

**Average Cost of Running a Sandhya Gurukulam Centre: Rs. 2000 per month.**
SHAPING THE FUTURE

We have many more miles to go. Pujya Swamiji’s vision was to take *Sandhya Gurukulam* to every village and nook and corner of the country.

For this, we need the help of people like you. You can make a difference by being a contributor; by sponsoring a *Sandhya Gurukulam*.

It costs just Rs. 2000 to run a *Sandhya Gurukulam* in a village for a month. Let us work together and make this project a huge success! Talk to your friends about it and let us change the lives of hundreds of children in rural India!

UPDATE ON NON FORMAL EDUCATION CENTRE

Since 2002, a non formal education center has been running at Bapugram village in Uttarakhand. This project is specifically targeted at drop out students (5 to 12 years of age) of labourers and daily wage earners like domestic helpers, rickshaw pullers and hawkers.

The non formal education centre follows the academic year pattern focusing on providing coaching and academic support. At the end of 12 months, based on assessment, the students are admitted to regular schools again.

To motivate the students to attend classes regularly, they are given biscuits at the end of every class. At the end of the course, they are gifted with school going items like bags, lunch boxes, pencil boxes and stationery kits and tee shirts. All this is done to encourage the students to complete their basic education.

Currently, 25 students are enrolled at the non formal education centre at Bapugram from Classes 1 to 7.

The significance of such a programme cannot be underestimated. The disruption in regular schooling due to Covid-19 has resulted in learning gaps among school going children. Children from rural India and tribal lands have suffered the most. In such a scenario, non formal education centres like ours act as a catalyst and prevent students from dropping out of school.

Moreover, parents are also counseled to allow their wards to go back to school. In some cases, targeted assistance is provided to those students who wish to join mainstream schooling again.
Shaping the Future

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SANDHYA GURUKULAM

The non formal education centre follows the academic year pattern focusing on providing coaching and academic support. At the end of 12 months, based on assessment, the students are admitted to regular schools again.

To motivate the students to attend classes regularly, they are given biscuits at the end of every class. At the end of the course, they are given with school going items like bags, lunch boxes, pencil boxes and stationery kits and t-shirts. All this is done to encourage the students to complete their basic education.

Currently, 25 students are enrolled at the non formal education centre at Bapugram from Classes 1 to 7. The significance of such a programme cannot be underestimated. The disruption in regular schooling due to Covid-19 has resulted in learning gaps among school going children. Children from rural India and tribal lands have suffered the most. In such a scenario, non formal education centres like ours act as a catalyst and prevent students from dropping out of school.

Moreover, parents are also counselled to allow their wards to go back to school. In some cases, targeted assistance is provided to those students who wish to join mainstream schooling again.

AIM ROUND-UP

In this part of the magazine, we share the latest happenings from the field during the quarter.

Tailoring Convocation

AIM for Seva is proud to share that 32 women have successfully completed the one year basic course in tailoring (2020-2021) from its three centres in Uttarakhand. The tailoring and cutting course calendar runs from November to October.

The convocation ceremony was held on 18th November 2021. On this occasion, certificates and sewing machines were distributed to the graduating students. The ladies from all three centres put up an exhibition of the dresses they had made.

The first sewing centre for women was established in 2002 by AIM for Seva in Uttarakhand. By establishing the centres and running a structured programme, AIM for Seva is helping women from hilly regions on the path of entrepreneurship and economic progress.

Health Check-Up

Health screening of students at frequent intervals is an important feature across our Chatralayams. A general health check-up was recently organised for the students residing and studying at the Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Uttoor, Telangana.

The importance of fitness and maintaining of healthy lifestyle is important than ever before. Across our Chatralayams, we imbibe the principles of sustainable living in the young minds from early on. Twenty six boys are back in this Chatralayam.

National Education Day Celebrations

National Education Day (11th November 2021) was celebrated at the G.V.K.C AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Vetapalem, Andhra Pradesh, under the auspices of Graduates Alumni Association.

Sri Prathikanti Venkata Subbarao, president of Graduates Alumni Association, Vetapalem addressed the students and advised everyone to focus on education by utilising all the facilities provided at the Chatralayam. On this occasion, the children were gifted with sweets and towels.

AIM ROUND-UP

Prize Winner
Shravan Kumar Kurakuri of Class 6 from the Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Kalabhavi, Karnataka, has bagged the first prize in the Bhagavad Gita chanting competition held in his school (HPS, Kalabhavi).

Congratulations.

Donor Visit
Sri. G. Manikandan, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, Computer Age Management Services (CAMS) recently paid a visit to the S. Viswanathan Memorial AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu and the Venkat Shanker AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Mulvoy, Tamil Nadu.

CAMS has been a regular and committed donor to both the projects. We thank CAMS for partnering with us in our endeavour to educate rural India.

CELEBRATIONS
A snapshot of some important festivals celebrated across our project locales is showcased in this section.

Deepavali and Seva
The festival of lights was celebrated across the AIM for Seva network in true spirit. The Indore (Madhya Pradesh) chapter of AIM for Seva pooled in Rs. 60,000 and distributed 300 special food packets to the needy and road dwellers in the city on Deepavali day.

Similarly, at Dharmapuri (Tamil Nadu), the coordinator and sevaks gifted new dresses and food to 15 panchayat workers (sanitation workers) on the festive occasion. This was sponsored by Lions Club, Palacode, Tamil Nadu.
The case for rural education assumes importance, more so during the pandemic times. As children return back to schools after a gap of 18 long months, its imperative that we provide the right kind of environment and learning opportunities. This will enable to make up for the lost time.

Thanks to the commitment shown by our donors, AIM for Seva continues with its efforts to educate rural India. In this portion of the newsletter, we share some highlights of our new educational projects from the ground.

**A Bhoomi Puja for the girls hostel building**

at the Swami Dayananda Saraswati campus, Padali Khurd village, Khargone district, Madhya Pradesh, was performed on 24th November 2021.

Swami Satprakashananda ji Maharaj graced the occasion and blessed students and staff members.

**Land and Building Donor:**

We thank Sri. Jugal Kishor and Smt. Bimla Kishor from California, USA, for contributing to this cause and supporting education of children from rural and tribal lands.

**A Bhoomi Puja for a new Chatralayam for girls** was done on 28th October 2021.

This new hostel will be located in Padavedu village, Polur taluk, Tiruvannamalai district, Tamil Nadu.

We thank the donors to this noble cause:

**Land Donor:** Aanandam Chairtable Trust  
**Building Donor:** Sri. P. Rama Ramalingam & family, California, USA

**A Gruhapravesh (house warming ceremony) of the new Chatralayam building**

for boys (Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Dindori, Madhya Pradesh) was performed on 10th November 2021.
The third wave of Covid-19 is upon us. Undaunted, AIM for Seva sevaks and volunteers continue with relief work across India.

**COVID-19 SEVA WORK**

At a recent function at Pujya Swamiji’s Janmabhoomi in Manjakkudi, the Chairperson and Managing Trustee of AIM for Seva, Ms. Sheela Balaji distributed Covid-19 grocery kits to 2,250 families. The beneficiaries came in from Manjakkudi and neighbouring villages such as Vembanur, Moolangudi, Narsingampettai, Thippanampettai, Keelapalaiyur, Uthirangudi, Neikkuppati and Sembangudi.

Covid-19 grocery kits were distributed to 950 families across 50 villages surrounding Perambalur and Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, on 26th December 2021.

We take this opportunity to thank the sponsors below for their generosity and in coming forward and sponsoring Covid-19 relief packs, Tamil Federation of Reunion Island (FAGRHCTR) and Seva International.

The AIM for Seva team in Uttar Pradesh recently distributed 100 grocery kits (worth Rs. 2000 each) to families in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra.

Grocery kits worth Rs. 2000 were distributed to 100 families on 26th December 2021 in the Madhiyan village, Mirzapur district, Uttar Pradesh.

Recognising the yeoman service rendered by the sevaks of Madhya Pradesh, a special meal was organised at Indore for 600 sevaks who contributed to this cause. The Chief Guest was Sri. Gaurav Ranadive, President, BJP, Indore while the special invitee was Dr. Sushant Khare, Chairman, Covid-19 Taskforce Managing Committee, Madhya Pradesh.

**Annadanam:** Since 1st December 2021, AIM for Seva volunteers have been distributing food to 30 children of poor families in Mauli Jagran slum, Chandigarh for five days every week.

**Donate**

*If you would like to contribute to our ongoing seva work, please log on to--https://aimforseva.in/covid-support/*
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COVID-19 SEVA
If you would like to contribute to our ongoing seva work, please log on to--
https://aimforseva.in/covid-support/

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

The third wave of Covid-19 is upon us. Undaunted, AIM for Seva sevaks and volunteers continue with relief work across India.

Donate
We take this opportunity to thank our long-term donors, supporters and other volunteers who continue to extend unflinching support to our cause of educating rural India. Be it education and care by supporting new Chatralayam construction, student sponsorships and upkeep of our Chatralayams, higher education scholarship and vocational training assistance, your contributions have helped many children from rural India to have access to quality education. We value your support and such financial intervention has enabled many children to pursue their dreams.

Repco Home Finance Limited, Chennai
Chennai based housing finance company, Repco Home Finance Limited has contributed a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs towards student sponsorships for the girls residing and studying at the Atmalaya Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls, Udumalpet, Tamil Nadu.

Veljan Hydraulics Limited, Hyderabad
Hyderabad based Veljan Hydraulics Limited has come forward and donated a sum of Rs. 3.6 lakhs towards student sponsorships.

Tide Water Oil Company (India) Limited
Tide Water Oil Company, Kolakata, has donated a sum of Rs. 3.6 lakhs towards education of 10 girl students at the Madhu & Rajkumar Nigam AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls, Unnao, Uttar Pradesh.

Computer Age Management Services Limited, Chennai
A continuous supporter to our mission to educate rural India, Computer Age Management Services Limited (CAMS) has donated a sum of Rs. 16 lakhs towards student sponsorships at Venkat Shanker AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Mulvoy, Tamil Nadu and S. Viswanathan Memorial AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.

ABI Showatech India Private Limited, Chennai
A leading player in the global automotive component manufacturing space, ABI Showatech, Chennai, has given a sum of Rs. 1 lakh towards student sponsorships.

Brakes India Private Limited, Chennai
A long term supporter to the Bhavani Arun AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls, Chinnasalem, Tamil Nadu, Brakes India Private Limited has given a sum of Rs. 12 lakhs as student sponsorships for the girls at the Chatralayam.

Turbo Energy Private Limited, Chennai
Turbo Energy Private Limited has contributed a sum of Rs. 1 lakh towards student sponsorship during the quarter.
STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

Watertec (India) Private Limited, Coimbatore
Coimbatore based Watertec (India) Private Limited has donated a sum of Rs. 75,000 towards student sponsorships.

HMD Foundation, New Delhi
New Delhi based HMD Foundation has donated a sum of Rs. 3.6 lakhs towards complete care of 10 students for one year.

Bajaj Electricals Foundation, Mumbai
Bajaj Electricals Foundation, Mumbai, has donated a sum of Rs. 3,26,314 lakhs as last installment towards refurbishment of the Dayasagar AIM for Seva Chatralaym for Boys, Sawantwadi, Maharashtra.

Rajeswari Nathan Foundation, Chennai
Rajeswari Nathan Foundation, Chennai, has donated a sum of Rs. 3.6 lakhs towards complete education and care for 10 children for one year.

Laxmibai Dwarakadas Charity Trust, Mumbai
On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3rd December), Laxmibai Dwarakadas Charity Trust from Mumbai donated Rs. 1 lakh to Swami Dayananda Krupa Care, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.

Polaris Banyan Holding Private Limited, Chennai
Polaris Banyan Holding Private Limited, Chennai has given a sum of Rs. 1 lakh towards student sponsorships.

Sandhya and Govind Parikh Family Charitable Trust, Chennai
Sandhya and Govind Parikh Family Charitable Trust, Chennai has donated a sum of Rs. 1 lakh towards student sponsorships.

Dayachand Malhotra Charitable Trust, Chennai
Dayachand Malhotra Charitable Trust has contributed a sum of Rs. 92,000 towards students sponsorships and Swami Dayananda Krupa Care, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.

Ranjitsinh Gaekwad Charities, Vadodara
Vadodara based Ranjitsinh Gaekwad Charities has donated a sum of Rs. 72,000 towards education and care of two students for one year.

Sri. Vasudev Kumarjiguda, Mumbai
Sri. Vasudev Kumarjiguda from Mumbai has donated a sum of Rs. 1.08 lakhs towards sponsorships of three students at the Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Tribal Boys Chatralayam, Alwal, Telangana.

Ms. Usha Arya, PA, USA
Ms. Usha Arya from PA, USA has come forward and donated a sum of Rs. 4 lakhs for our students studying and living in our Chatralayams in Uttarakhand.

Sri. Arvind Balaji, Chennai
Sri. Arvind Balaji from Chennai has donated a sum of Rs. 1,00,001 towards student sponsorships.

Sri. Ganesan Ramachandran, Mumbai
A long time supporter of AIM for Seva, Sri. Ganesan Ramachandran from Mumbai has donated a sum of Rs. 1 lakh towards AIM for Seva’s projects.

Ms. Jayshree Suresh Parekh, Chennai
Smt. Jayshree Suresh Parekh from Chennai has donated a sum of Rs. 1 lakh towards student sponsorships.

Ms. Chellammal Narayanaswamy, Chennai
Smt. Chellammal Narayanaswamy from Chennai has contributed a sum of Rs. 1 lakh towards student sponsorships.
Sri. Sridhar Sundararajan, Mumbai
Sri. Sridhar Sundararajan from Mumbai has contributed a sum of Rs. 75,000 towards academics and clothing of five students for one year.

Sri. Thiagarajan Baskar, Chennai
Sri. Thiagarajan Baskar from Chennai has donated a sum of Rs. 63,000 towards complete care and nutrition of three students for one year.

Sri. Arjundurai A., Chennai
Sri. Arjundurai A. from Chennai has given Rs. 60,000 towards care of residents at Swami Dayananda Krupa Care, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.

Sri. Subramanian N., Coimbatore
Sri. Subramanian N. from Coimbatore has contributed a sum of Rs. 51,000 as child sponsorship for the boys residing and studying at Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Tribal Boys Chatralayam, Anaikatti, Tamil Nadu.

Sri. Aravind Ganesan, Chennai
Sri. Aravind Ganesan from Chennai has donated a sum of Rs. 50,000 towards Swami Dayananda Krupa Care, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.

Ms. Alamelu R., Chennai
Smt. Alamelu R., Chennai has donated a sum of Rs. 50,000 towards child sponsorships.

Sri. Jayesh Anand Chaudhary, Mumbai
Sri. Jayesh Anand Chaudhary from Mumbai has donated a sum of Rs. 50,000 towards student sponsorships.

Sri. Harish J Shah, Chennai
Sri. Harish J Shah from Chennai has given a sum of Rs. 40,001 towards the ongoing Covid-19 relief work.

Sri. Vanchinathan S., Chennai
Sri. Vanchinathan S. from Chennai has donated a sum of Rs. 40,000 towards student sponsorships.

We thank the donors below for supporting one child

- Sri. Kumar M.V., Bengaluru
- Sri. K. Baloo, Bengaluru
- Sri. Murali R., Mumbai
- Ms. Padma Prabhakar, Coimbatore
- Sri. Viswanathan B., Chennai
- Sri. Sridhar Ramanathan, Bengaluru
- Sri. Subramanian B., Chennai
- Ms. Lavanya Venkat, Chennai
- Ms. Parvathi Palaniappan, Chennai
- Sri. M.K. Ananthanarayanan, Chennai
- Ms. Kalyani Evani, Tanuku (Annadanam)
- Sri. Subrahmanyan Srinivasan, Chennai
- Ms. Uma Srinivasan, Chennai
- Ms. Soma Dayanand, Secunderabad
- Sri. Sukumur Shetty, Chikmagalur
- Light Pharma Private Limited, Bengaluru
- Sri. Satish Kharche, Mumbai
- Ms. Deepa Vallabhaneni, Hyderabad
- Sri. Ram Naresh Singh, Shiekhpura
- Sri. Ranjan Kumar, Patna
- Sri. Arunkumar Sadasivam, Erode
- Sri. Koustubh Jayakumar, Bengaluru
- Sri. Jayakumar Gupta D.R., Bengaluru (Annadanam)
- Ms. Lalitha Sankaran, Chennai
- Sri. Raviprakash Salagame, Bengaluru
- Pon Pure Chemical India Private Limited, Chennai
- Ms. Kalyani Raman, Chennai
- Sridhar Harakere Sivaswamy HUF, Bengaluru
- Sri. Sankaran S.V., Chennai
- Sri. Raghunathan R., Pune
- Sri. Bhat S.R., Bengaluru
- Smt. Rathna Bhaskar, Bengaluru
- Sri. Balaji R.
Across our Chatralayams, we organise outdoor trips that help break the monotony of everyday hostel life. Details of some excursions undertaken by the Chatralayam students during the quarter are highlighted below.

Students from **Dudhiya and Bodidra hostels in Gujarat**, were taken on a one day trip to Galteshwar temple, Dakor in Kheda district. The students first reached the destination via train. They had never travelled in a train before. Post the temple tour, the students visited the nearby places by local transport. On the whole, it was a fun filled trip.

Ten students from the **Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Amboli, Maharashtra**, recently had a day long outing to a waterfall nearby.

Hostlers from the **Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls, Yelahanka, Karnataka**, were taken out on a day long educational tour by their yoga teacher and AIM for Seva supporter, Sri. Sathya Murthi. They visited the Ranganathaswamy temple, Shri Shirdi Sai Baba temple, Shri Ghati Subrahmanya Temple and Sriranga Sagara water falls. Twenty eight girls have come back to the Yelahanka Chatralayam.

“It is good for our students to visit places as it will widen their knowledge and they will understand better the richness of our *Sanatana Dharma*,” Ms. Sheela Balaji, Chairperson and Managing Trustee of AIM for Seva said.

In the words of our coordinator, “When students practiced the *samskaras* they learnt at the hostel, people around came to know about us and the good work that we are doing for society. It is important for the local people to know that we teach our students the value of *samskaras* and this is for life.”

Such field trips help our students to unwind and enjoy each other’s company in an informal environment.
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A SOLAR POWERED VISIT TO THE CAMPUS

Sri. Suresh Parekh recently paid a visit to Swami Dayananda Krupa Care, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu. The discussions centred around incorporation of solar and bio gas facilities in the campus.

Sri. Suresh Parekh is an advocate of green and sustainable living.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

3rd December is celebrated as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Having gained expertise in providing care and lifetime support to adult (men) with developmental disabilities, Swami Dayananda Krupa Care is in its next leg of journey. We are now looking to develop Krupa into a holistic centre that is expected to be up and running by 2023.

This new state-of-the-art facility is expected to address all dimensions of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of Krupa residents.

DONATE

https://aimforseva.in/donations/donatetowardsswamidayanandakrupacare/
The third quarter of the Vedanta series began with a powerful exposition on 'Meditation Brings out the Bhavana of a Devotee.' (2nd October 2021).

The bhakta is one who is completely cognizant of his relationship with Ishvara and is able to bring this awareness to the performance of the roles he plays. The bhakta thus sheds the baggage of the roles he plays by creating a space within himself/herself - and does not allow the guilt or hurt arising from the actions or consequences to affect him/her. Creation of this space, the process of shedding the identification with the many roles comes about with meditation. As Pujya Swamiji says, meditation is a time when we have an 'appointment with ourselves' and therefore 'an appointment with Ishvara.' The practice of meditation will help to define the external events and influences - and keep it external to us. This is the first step towards deeper acceptance of ourselves and the world around us as it is. As Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati says, this is the first step to inner peace.

The next episode aired on 9th October 2021 continued with the meditation. This time the focus was on 'Meditation on the Mediator.' A non-demanding, highly appreciative and happy person - we are able to bring out this part of ourselves when we awaken the bhakta within us. We already experience this when we are in the midst of nature, and are able to accept the mountains, rivers and other parts of nature as they are and without judgement or expectation of change. If we are able to bring the non-demanding, appreciative person within us to bear upon our interactions with other people (including our family members), we break free of the cycle of guilt and hurt we bring upon ourselves. Through meditation, we are able to evoke the conscious being that we are, and we are able to gain space from the roles we play and that others play with respect to us. As Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati says, meditation is a time when we become the bare conscious, who is the bhakta (or bhagavata). Through the practice of meditation, we can create the space within us, and disconnect from the roles we play. In this session, Pujya Swamiji gives us a direction as to how we should approach the practice of meditation.

In the telecast on 16th October, 2021, the talk centred on Key to Claiming the Devotee You Are. Hurt arises from what we regard as omissions and commissions on part of the others who we see as being related to us. When we are our true selves, we are able to unload the hurt we feel and are able to heal ourselves. Any practice that helps us be our true self is thus helpful in this healing process. Guilt, on the other hand, arises from our own omissions and commissions. Healing our sense of guilt requires a different action – which comes under prayschita karma (loosely defined as remedial prayer, ritual, action, etc.). When we perform a ritual to heal our guilt or to overcome problems that arise from our own actions, we are doing so only as the bhakta that is at the core. More importantly, when we perform a ritual for the sake of another (such as for a father or a son), the bhakta in us leads the ritual or prayer through the role we play. In this session, Pujya Swamiji helps us see how we can move towards bringing out the bhakta in us – which will help guide us in all that we do.

From meditation the focus shifted to Karma as Yoga is True Devotion on 23rd October 2021. When we view and perform any action as one that is done as a form of prayer...
for Ishvara, we bring our inner devotee or bhakta out into the world. During meditation, we drop our roles and gain space – which leads us to discover the bhakta that we are. When we perform our duties with the attitude of surrendering all aspects of the action Ishvara, we bring the bhakta out to the physical realm we are in. More importantly, when we perform our actions as a bhakta (and only as a true bhakta), the guilt and regret that results from the action does not touch us anymore, as we neither associate with the role performing the action nor the act itself. Guilt and hurt have no staying power in the bhakta. Can we, however, truly forsake all expectations of the result we desire from our actions? How does this affect our attitude and behaviour? Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati leads us to a deeper understanding of the fundamental teaching of the Bhagavad Gita.

In the relay on 30th October 2021, the topic at hand was 'Karmayogi Devoteeis Equamious to Karmaphalam.' There is a two-fold or result for karma - that which is seen or experienced immediately, and that which is not seen but which plays out as an outcome at some future point. Thus, there is no 'chance' per se - all that happens to us is part of a cause-and-effect relationship based on our actions. By creating more good or beneficial outcomes for ourselves, we can hope to enhance our lives and reduce the negative effects of our past actions. Furthermore, the effort to gain an understanding of Ishvara will lead us to a quickened pace of ending the cycle of karma and phalam - and gain moksha. Even if a birth is needed, it will be one that moves the person closer to the ultimate understanding of our true self. This effort is the prayaschitta karma - one that is done by our free will and effort. Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati guides us on the nature of prayaschitta karma and the forms it takes as kayikam karma.

The action then shifts to Kayikam, Vackikam – Yoga for the Devotee. In the broadcast on 6th November 2021, Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati explains the different forms of rituals - kayikam and vacikam - and their place in our lives. At the heart of these different forms of rituals is the basic person’s relationship with Ishvara. These rituals, when practiced properly, produce both drshta and adrshathalam in varying degrees. More importantly, the absorption one feels while engaging in the rituals can bring about a sense of healing for the hurt and freeing of the guilt.

Jagatlsvara is the Order of Orders was the focus on 13th November 2021. Ishvara is manifest in the form of this jagat. There is no ‘other’ Ishvara. Thus, to understand Ishvara, we have to understand the jagat in an adequate manner. The jagat itself consists of different orders, each of which acts according to the deeper intelligence that drives it. What we study in the form of different subjects (such as physics, physiology, psychology, biology, etc.), which is in reference to the manifest jagat, is in itself a study of Ishvara. This jagat is an order by itself that contains within it several other orders. There is no ‘disorder’ as Ishvра, who is all-knowledge, is manifest as the order of all order. Even a so-called disorder is part of the order itself, and has its place in the larger scheme of things. A ‘proper’ understanding of Ishvara helps us gain a sense of harmony about our own ‘relationship’ with Ishvara - and thereby our relationship with this jagat.

In the Saturday telecast on 20th November 2021, Pujya Swamiji dwells on Revelation: Svarupa of Ishvara is Self. In this session, Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati touches on the physical and psychological order in the jagat. He brings out the aspect of how each being in this jagat has its own intelligence and their own ignorance. The ‘ignorance’ is also part of this order, as it enables the manifold transactions between the different beings possible. When it comes to human beings, the freedom (given to correct the mistakes that arise from ignorance) gives rise to psychological problems. These so-called problems act as guideposts that lead us to Ishvra, and help us understand how and why even they are part of the total order. To understand and overcome these issues, we have to understand the essence of Vedanta, ‘I am’, and that our body-mind-sense complex is part of the total order or Ishvara. This is akin to putting our ‘house in order’.

Analysing our Emotional Order was dwelt on 27th November 2021. Right from start, Pujya Swamiji made a
strong pitch by stating that no emotion is negative or positive. In particular, he stressed the need to address our emotions in a healthy manner without victimising others or ourselves. Pujya Swamiji stressed that emotions originated mostly internally, and are part of the order, they can be processed if one is alert without victimising the other. Most importantly, he explained how we can create a safe place to process an emotion when it arises.

The month of December began with a talk on Psychological Order: Unconscious, Subconscious on 4th December 2021.

Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati explains that all our emotions are not ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ - and that all our emotions are part of Ishvara’s order. Hence, we do not have to blame ourselves or anyone else for our emotions. Moreover, as our emotions arise from within us, we can find a way to express our feeling without victimising another person or ourselves. When we deal with our emotions, we avoid giving it unnecessary space or energy - and curb our impulse to act in a manner that harms ourselves or others. To do so, we can seek Ishvara’s help through prayer - and bring out our deep-seated relationship with Ishvara. However, the bigger question is, why are such strong emotions present in us? Pujya Swamiji takes us through an understanding of subconscious as subliminal conditioning. The unconscious gets embedded in early childhood and generally consists of hurt and guilt due to perceived deprivation.

A week later (11th December 2021), the topic dealt by Pujya Swamiji was Total Trust Obviates Helplessness in a Child. The jagat is viewed in the form of different orders. The jagat includes a person’s body-mind-sense complex - which is a manifest form of Ishvara. Within this, we identify in ourselves a biological order, a physiological order, and a psychological order. This psychological order, which is critical for a human being, is shaped by multiple influences, the key among them being the effect of the unconscious. In early childhood, the infant is completely helpless - and this total helplessness is obviated by total trust in the caregiver. If this experience of total trust can be harnessed later in life as trust in ‘ishvara’, the person will find it easy to navigate through the roles he/she plays in life. However, when the total trust on the child’s part is ‘violated’ in small and big measures in modern society, the hurt and guilt forms the unconscious - and the adult does not recognise it. As Pujya Swamiji gently points out, all of these hurt and guilt later become the unrecognised feelings that ‘explode’ and disrupt relations with those around us.

The talk then moved to Ishvara is Super Therapist for all Unconscious in the episode aired on 18th December 2021. The masking of our true feelings is part of the psychological order, which helps us bear the disappointments we face without breaking down - and this becomes our unconscious. This is Ishvara’s order - to help save the child from being crushed under the weight of the feelings. This is the loving hand of the Lord, which has created this order. This unconscious is not something we need to be afraid of, or blame ourselves for. However, this unconscious becomes the reason behind conflicts in adult life, especially in close relationships - especially after a basis of trust has been established. This is because our trust leads us to seek the infallible in those we trust - and we end up being disappointed every time because no one human being is infallible.

On 25th December 2021, the topic was with total trust in Ishvara, Bhakta is Free.

The child in us controls our behaviour as adults. The child who is hurt and disappointed affects our actions well into our adulthood. It is this child in us who keeps seeking validation from others, be it our friends, family members or even a therapist. When we form a basis of trust with another, we first appreciate their nature and qualities. With time, we begin to impose our insecurities and issues on them - and start to hold them ‘responsible’ for the hurt and guilt that we have been carrying within ourselves for years. Given that every other person we form a relationship with is human, fallibility is to be expected. However, the child in us refuses to accept the fallibility of the other and continues to push the other to fulfill its own void caused by omissions and commissions. In this session, Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati gently guides us towards a beautiful solution - to see Ishvara as the ‘super therapist’ who is infallible and in whom we are always validated.

When we trust in Ishvara, our guilt and hurt fall away and we find the peace we have been searching for. We become free.
News from 'Gau land'
On the eve of Karthigai Deepam, the Swami Dayananda Goshala welcomed Karthikeyan. The new born male calf is of Gir stock, a humped native breed from Kathiawar, Gujarat. This variety is one of the oldest found in India.

Class 9 students from the Swami Dayananda Matric Higher Secondary School, Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu, recently paid a visit to the Swami Dayananda Goshala. The students had many queries related to the cows that were patiently answered by the staff at Swami Dayananda Educational Trust (SDET).

Farm Update
At the Swami Dayananda Farm, the sowing process is complete for the season. Before the next set of rains and setting in of winter, we need to plan and execute effective crop protection methods. One such measure is spraying of neem. Originally from South and Southeast Asia, neem was one of the earliest used botanical pest control agent by farmers.

Farmers have traditionally ground neem leaves, soaked them overnight in water, and treated the planted rice crop with the extract. We also create a bio pesticide made of five leaves at the farm. This consists of neem, Malabar nut (adathoda), nochi, nuna (manjanathi) and crown flower (erukku). All these plants have been used to control a wide range of insect pests and plant disease organisms at the farm.

Vedanta Retreat
Arsha Bodhini Group, Chennai recently conducted a three day programme on Vedanta at Jnanapravaha (Swami Dayananda Study Centre), Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu.

Acarya Ranganji spoke on Manisha Pancakam while Smt. Suryapriya’s talk focused on Tripod of Vedanta-Gurusastra-Ishvara. These sessions were interspersed by Bhagavad Gita verses chanting and Nirvansa Shatkm chanting.

The programmes started with a welcome address by Swami Ramesvarananda on behalf of the Jnanapravaha team. It was followed with Guru Puja at Jnanapravaha hall at the feet of Pujya Swami and also a vigraha of Lord Krishna. The Bhagavad Gita programme culminated with taking the Lord Krishna vigraha around in a procession from Jnanapravaha hall to Perumal Temple and after a small puja there, the vigraha was taken to Swamiji’s janma grha and a small puja was conducted there and guruprasad – ‘Value of values’ books were distributed to the participants.

The classroom sessions were well attended by the group of students,
NEWS FROM THE SWAMI DAYANANDA MATRIC HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

NEET Sponsorship

AIM for Seva has sponsored the full coaching of five students of Class 11 (2021-22) towards NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test).

This sponsorship will be for two years and the students would be trained by Ahaguru through their mentor learning programme.

The total cost of this sponsorship programme is Rs. 3.5 lakhs. The students were handpicked based on their aspiration and performance in the previous level. Parental consensus was also taken before enrolling the children for this online coaching programme.

The group was well-hosted by the Jnanapravaha team members, volunteers, housekeeping staff and kitchen staff. The group was happy with their stay and profusely appreciated our efforts in providing the right ambience, food, accommodation facilities, study material, etc for Vedanta study and would be happy to have further sessions in future.

The Jnanapravaha team also expressed appreciation of the retreat, disciplined participation by the members and their respect for Arsha Vidya Acaryas and the great reverence they showed towards Pujya Swamiji and the special word of appreciation they had for Smt. Sheela Balaji (Chairperson and Managing Trustee, Swami Dayananda Educational Trust) for envisioning and putting together such a place for Vedanta Study, along the lines Pujya Swamiji would have wanted. In all, it was a grand successful retreat.

ROAD AHEAD: MANJAKKUDI

SASTRA—CNR RAO LAB

SASTRA has committed itself to establish the SASTRA-CNR Rao Lab facility in 10 schools at a cost of Rs. 5 lakh each. The Swami Dayananda Matric Higher Secondary School is one such institution where this facility has been setup.

As part of this process, selected students from Class 9, 11 and 12 recently participated in the first and second level of the training session at the SASTRA-CNR Lab. The main goal is facilitation with DIY (Do-It-Yourself) kits on robotics, IoT (Internet of Things), 3D printing, AI (artificial intelligence) and drones. This has been done with an overall mission to strengthen science and technology-based learning at the school level.

In the first session, students from Class 9 got an orientation to the basics in robotics and Arduino. Students from Class 11 and 12 participated in the next session.

At the end of the second training programme, students were able to connect the circuit on their own. As part of continuous learning and training, the students were introduced to projects like auto cap (Covid shield), basic water saving projects and auto detection sanitisation.

Our students have given thumbs up to this programme. They eagerly participated in all the training activity and are now curious to know about STEM lab equipments. Some devices like sensors and micro controllers were new to the students.

Sharing his feedback, the trainer from Propeller Technologies said that students from this school had a very good foundation and smart ideas related to programming. “It was very easy to train them and the Swami Dayananda School is one of the best so far in terms of imparting of this training.”
Poetry Prize for the Students

A collection of poems written by students K. Kiruthika and K. Lawanya, 3rd year (BA English) have been published in World Book of Records, London.

Congratulations.

Fit India Run

Students from the Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakudi, Tamil Nadu, took part in Fit India Freedom Run as part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav – India@75 on 2nd October 2021. This was organised by Nehru Yuvakendra (under the administrative control of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India), Tiruvurur, Tamil Nadu.

The run started at Tiruvurur Manu Neethi Cholan Mandapam and concluded at the entrance of the Thiyagaraja Temple. District Collector, Smt. Gayathri Krishnan, Member of Parliament from Nagapattinam, Sri. M. Selvaraj and Tiruvurur MLA, Sri. Poondi K. Kalaiyan, took the lead role in organising this run.

Clean India Programme

Under the guidance of Bharathidasan University (to which the Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science is affiliated) and with advice from the college principal, Dr. V. Hema, the NSS (National Service Scheme) student volunteers of the college cleaned up the premises of Kali Amman temple and other streets in Manjakudi. Held on 11th October 2021, this Clean India Programme was undertaken to create awareness among the public.

Anti Corruption Drive

As a part of Anti-Corruption Awareness Week, the department of Anti-Corruption and Surveillance, Tiruvurur and the NSS (National Service Scheme) wing of Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakudi, Tamil Nadu, jointly organised an Anti-Corruption Awareness Programme on 27th October 2021 at G.Auditorium.

The keynote speaker, Sri. Nandhakumar, Deputy Superintendent of Anti-Corruption and Surveillance Department shared his ideas and experiences related to anti-corruption with the students. In her interaction with the students, Smt. Tamizhchelvi, Inspector of Vigilance department, dwelt on truth, hard work and excellence. The programme ended with NSS volunteers performing a mime on how corruption affects our country’s welfare and prosperity.

Awareness Programme on ISO

A general awareness programme on ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) was conducted in the college premises on 21st October 2021.

Brimming with Talent

J. Sanjay, a Class 12 student from the Sembangudi Higher Secondary School, Sembangudi, Tamil Nadu, won the first prize in the district level unique dance competition (folk dance). This event was part of Kala Utsav 2021. He has now been selected to participate in the state level competition.

Congratulations to the school and Sanjay.
In his address to the faculty members, Sri. B. Vijayakumar from Creative Quality Management Services, Chennai, highlighted the purpose and benefits of getting an ISO certification. He also touched upon concepts like risk based thinking, quality management principles and process approach.

The International Day of the Girl Child

The International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated on 11th October 2021 in the college campus. An online meet was organised on this occasion. This programme was organised and coordinated by Dr. V.S. Kumar, assistant professor, department of Physics and Dr. R.K. Brintha, assistant professor, department of Commerce, Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu.

This programme was coordinated by placement officer, Sri. R. Lakshmi Narayanan, at the college and other faculty members.

Getting Ready for the Civil Services Examination

A training session for UPSC (Union Public Service Commission) aspirants was conducted at the Swami Dayananda College premises on 23rd and 24th December 2021. This training seminar was conducted by Sri.T.K. Srinath, a prominent trainer from Bangalore.

The programme was inaugurated by the college correspondent, Sri. M.G. Srinivasan. Present on the occasion were Sri. G. Dharmarajan, Trustee, SDET and Dr. V. Hema, principal, Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu.

As part of the training module, the expert gave a bigger picture of how to prepare for the civil services examination to the students. Sri. T.K. Srinath also gave a simple task of notes making to the student groups to check their ability of grasping content in the newspaper and connecting to the topic.

On the second day, Sri. T.K. Srinath conducted a review session and explained to the students the strategy behind the long preparation for civil services. This workshop saw participation of 200 students from the college. A few students and faculty from the Swami Dayananda Matric Higher Secondary School, Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu, also took part in this event.

This programme was coordinated by placement officer, Sri. R. Lakshmi Narayanan, at the college and other faculty members.

Youth Red Cross

Vaccination camps were held at the Swami Dayananda Matric Higher Secondary School, Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu, Pudukkudi library, Government School - Annavasal, Government Hospital - Kudavasal bus stand and Paadalamariamman Kovil - Kudavasal on 3rd October 2021. On this occasion, masks, sanitisers with thermal scanners were distributed.

College Toppers

The following students from the Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu, have got university ranks among 156 colleges affiliated to Bharathidasan University.

**UNIVERSITY RANK HOLDERS 2018-2021 batch**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Student</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M. Kalaiselvi</td>
<td>B.Com, BM</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Miruthula</td>
<td>B.Com, BM</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Sugapriya</td>
<td>B.Com, BM</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Mubav Sowmiya</td>
<td>B.Com, BM</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Vengadakalakshmi</td>
<td>B.Com, BM</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Aboiyaya</td>
<td>B.Com, BM</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Dhanapriya</td>
<td>B.Com, BM</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Sri Priya</td>
<td>B.Com, BM</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Yamini</td>
<td>B.Com, BM</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Abirami</td>
<td>B.Com, BM</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.G. Nandhini</td>
<td>B.Com, BM</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K.R. Bharatwaj</td>
<td>BCA</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Kiruthika</td>
<td>B.Sc, Physics</td>
<td>13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Pavithra</td>
<td>B.Com</td>
<td>13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.T. Ramkumar</td>
<td>B.Com</td>
<td>13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Pavithra</td>
<td>B.Sc, IT</td>
<td>13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Subitsha</td>
<td>B.Sc, IT</td>
<td>13th</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**UNIVERSITY RANK HOLDERS 2019-2021 batch**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Student</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R. Gayathry</td>
<td>M.Com</td>
<td>6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Siva Priya</td>
<td>M.Com</td>
<td>10th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Protection and Preservation of Dharma

In the concluding section of this issue, we share deep insights from Vision of the Gita - In Ten Essential Verses – penned by our Founder, Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati.

‘Dharmah raksati, raksitah,’ dharma protects only when it is protected. The protection of Dharma will not allow the adharmis to get away with what they do.

Dharma cannot be saved without protecting the dharmis. Dharma is not some tangible thing that you protect. For instance in India, people used to write anything they wanted about their families etc, put the information in a bottle and bury it. This was done for posterity’s sake, for a later generation but dharma cannot be bottled and buried like that.

If you protect a dharmi, dharma is protected. A dharmi is a person who follows a life of dharma. Therefore, dharma is handed over like a relay race; the baton is handed over to another person.

In India, the whole preservation of dharma is by its transmission from parents to children and that is how our tradition has so far been maintained. The parents hand over the entire tradition to their children. The father and mother are the first gurus and they hand over the tradition, whether they know it or not. If the children want to know more as they grow older, then they go to the gurus.

Thus, Hindus do not have an organisation structure which keeps the congregation going because the religious conscience is in fact, handed over by parents to children and again by gurus to the disciples.

Hinduism has always been a vertical flow and not lateral control. That is why we have maintained ourselves even though we have our own problems. This is a tradition which is handed over.
## Support Our Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support Description</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Support Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educate 1 child for 1 year — support by providing tuition fees, books, notebooks, stationery, uniforms, school bag and sports gear</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>Rs. 15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care for 1 child for 1 year — support by providing boarding, three meals a day, health check-ups and medicine</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Rs. 21,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Education and Care for 1 child for 1 year (options 1 and 2 combined)</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Rs. 36,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educate 1 child for 1 month — support by providing tuition fees, books, notebooks, stationery, uniforms, school bag and sports gear</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>Rs. 1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care for 1 child for 1 month — support by providing boarding, three meals a day, health check-ups and medicine</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>Rs. 1,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Education and Care for 1 child for 1 month (options 4 and 5 combined)</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>Rs. 3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special meals for the children in a Chatralayam on a donor-designated day</td>
<td>1 meal</td>
<td>Rs. 3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special clothes for a festive occasion for 1 child</td>
<td>1 occasion</td>
<td>Rs. 800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete care for 1 resident of Swami Dayananda Krupa Care for 1 month</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>Rs. 25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete care for 1 resident of Swami Dayananda Krupa Care for 1 year</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Rs. 3,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special meals for the residents of Swami Dayananda Krupa Care on a donor-designated day</td>
<td>1 meal</td>
<td>Rs. 5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Cheques/DD to be drawn in favour of ‘AIM for Seva’
* Donate online at https://aimforseva.in/donations/
* Contributions to AIM for Seva are exempt from Income Tax under section 80G of the Indian Income Tax Act, 1961

Wishing you all a Very Happy New Year 2022